

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. Pusher for scraper chain conveyors, especially of the kind used in underground mining, comprising an upper member [[(15)]] and a therewith connectable lower member [[(16)]], said two members being connectable by means of a bolted connection, each member of said pusher featuring one part of one or more chain beds (11,12) through which a flat jointing plane runs, as well as one part of the recesses provided for the bolts [[(19)]] of the bolted connection and located to the outside of the chain bed (11,12), the upper member [[(15)]] and the lower member [[(16)]] embracing each other at least partially, and the upper member [[(15)]] being configured as a bow-like bridge element that wraps over both ends of the lower member from above, the two ends [[(22)]] of the bridge-like upper member [[(15)]] being of cuneiform shape and having upper and lower guide surfaces (24,25) sloping towards each other in V-formation, and the upper member [[(15)]] and the lower member [[(16)]] engaging each other at each end by means of nose-like centering projections [[(17)]] on the upper member or the lower member, said projections engaging complementary recesses in the contact surfaces of the lower member [[(16)]] or the upper member [[(15)]], **characterized in that** wherein supporting surfaces [[(42)]] are provided between the upper member [[(15)]] and the lower member [[(16)]], said supporting surfaces effecting a gap between the upper member and the lower member, at least in the vicinity of the bolted connections (19,20).

2. Pusher according to claim 1, **characterized in that** wherein the supporting surfaces are formed by protuberances [[(34)]] on the upper member and/or the lower member, which protuberances, at least in the vicinity of the bolted connections (19,20), form a preferably slit-like space [[(33)]] between the upper member and the lower member.

3. Pusher according to claim 1 [[or 2]], **characterized in that** wherein the protuberances [[(34)]] are provided in the two lateral end portions of the upper member and the lower member.

4. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, **characterized in that** wherein the preferably slit like space [(33)] extends over a substantial area between the upper member and the lower member, preferably extending essentially over the entire length of the pusher's jointing plane.

5. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, **characterized in that** wherein the protuberances [(34)] are engineered within the area between the bolted connections (19, 20) provided in both lateral end portions.

6. Pusher according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, **characterized in that** wherein the protuberances are provided in the vicinity of the centering noses [(17)].

7. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, **characterized in that** wherein the protuberances are formed by knuckle-like centering protuberances [(30)] which are raised in such manner that on tightening of the bolted connections (19, 20), the knuckles [(30)] abut on the bottom of the complementary recess in the counterpart and the two chain legs (38, 39) are not clamped.

8. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, **characterized in that** wherein an additional centering knuckle [(30)] that interacts with a complementary recess [(31)] is provided at the center of the pusher [(10)].

9. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, **characterized in that** wherein the engaging surfaces, or contact surfaces, between the centering nose [(17)] and the centering recess [(26)] are formed by the frontal nose surface [(35)], the two lateral nose surfaces [(41)] or the surfaces [(35)] on either side of and bordering on the recess [(26)].

10. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, **characterized in that** wherein the supporting surfaces forming the space [(33)] are formed by a depression (47) on the bottom of the upper member and/or of the lower member.

11. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, **characterized in that** wherein the chain link is held by friction and positively within the chain bed (11, 12), there being in this area, i.e. in the jointing plane, a small space between the upper and lower members which permits pretensioning of the two members.

12. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, **characterized in that** wherein the underside of the lower member [(16)] is provided in the vicinity of its ends with recesses [(33)] that create a space between each end of the lower member and the base plate [(4)] of the conveyor.

13. The pusher of claim 12, **characterized in that** wherein the recessed surface of the lower member is flush with the lower surface of the wrap-over ends [(22)] of the upper member [(15)].